

# Women Against Military Madness

## Newsletter

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Women Against Military Madness

*It's hard to imagine today but the nations of the world once agreed to ban all war. It's time to uncover the buried story and revive hope for humankind.*

## The World Declares an End to War!

by Steve McKeown

A favorite song among peace activists is one written by Ed McCurdy in 1950. It goes like this: "Last night I had the strangest dream I'd ever dreamed before. I dreamed the world had all agreed to put an end to war. I dreamed I saw a mighty room, and the room was filled with men. And the paper they were signing said they'd never fight again."

In his well-researched book *When the World Outlawed War*, David Swanson has written, "That scene had already happened in reality on August 27, 1928, in Paris, France." That was the day the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed, named after U.S. Secretary of State Frank Kellogg and French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand, both of whom drew up the pact. Kellogg was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize of 1929 for this. Officially the pact was called the General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy.

Initially, 15 countries signed the pact and many more signed shortly thereafter. Within the U.S., the Senate ratified it in an 85 to 1 vote. President Coolidge then signed it, and it was recognized as a binding agreement as

of July 24, 1929. It remains on the books to this day as part of what Article VI of the U.S. Constitution calls the "supreme law of the land." Eighty-four countries are signatories.

But today most people even in Minnesota, the state that Secretary of State Frank Kellogg was from, believe that Kellogg Boulevard, a prominent St. Paul street, was named after Kellogg breakfast cereal. Many students and teachers of international law and congressional representatives don't know anything about the pact, with the exception of those who have been exposed to it through recent efforts to revive awareness.

Yet Frank Kellogg, after whom Kellogg Boulevard is named, is the only Minnesotan ever to have won the Nobel Peace Prize. Hardly known for efforts in peacemaking as a U.S. senator, he surprised everyone when, as secretary of state, he promoted a law universally against war and convinced French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand of its necessity. (Briand had been pushing for a treaty that would ban war only between France and the U.S.)

Much more went into the treaty to ban war, of course, than the actions of the two leaders for whom it is named. Our culture is so militarized now that it's necessary to understand how different the environment in the world and in the U.S. was in 1928 and 1929.

The movement to outlaw war arose as a result of the horrific World War I experience with poison gas, constant shelling, corpses, rats, mud and blood in trenches separated by barbed wire, sometimes not even miles apart; some battles resulted in rivers running with blood. Nearly ten million were killed and 20 million wounded in what was supposed to be "the war

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Photo: Abed Omar QusinilReuters

# WAMM

## Newsletter

The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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Women Against Military Madness is a nonviolent, feminist organization that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. WAMM's purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.


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## End to War, *continued from page 1*

to end all war.” A staggering 100 million people also died due to influenza that is, of little doubt, attributable to the war, as the contagion spread among troops and civilians.

By and large, people were totally sick of war.

As the war was supposedly fought on the premise of being “the war to end all war,” many were angry in its aftermath that they had been deluded into believing that the means could justify the end and they called for accountability; the expectation was that, in the future, countries signing the pact would be accountable to each other. Another very important factor conducive to the forming of the pact was that our military industrial complex was much smaller at that time.

The political environment was also much more receptive, as David Swanson describes in his book:

The peace movement growing in the 1920s developed in a nation different from the United States of the twenty-first century in many ways. One of them was the state of political parties. The Republicans and Democrats were not the only game in town. They were pushed in the direction of peace and social justice by Socialist and Progressive Parties . . .

Beyond political parties, he explains the enormous grassroots groundswell that was necessary to pressure those in power to ban war through the pact: “Senators who denounced it on the floor during the ratification debate voted for it out of fear of their constituents. Activists organized a flood of petitions and letters and press and meetings and lobbying.”

Grassroots movements in the Midwest, where the progressive populist movement was very strong, played a prominent role in the move to outlaw war. Salmon Oliver Levinson of Chicago led what was called “the Outlawry movement,” launching a national campaign organized to ban all wars.

*Photo: nobelfacts.com*  
U.S. Secretary of State  
Frank B. Kellogg,  
who was awarded the  
Nobel Peace Prize in  
1929 for pursuing the  
treaty to end all wars.



*Photo: Swathmore College Peace Collection*  
Women's International League of Peace and Freedom Executive Committee, 1928, in Geneva. Women's organizations played a vital role in the endeavor to outlaw war.

Women who had organized through the suffragette movement became an active force in the peace movement. In 1925, Carrie Chapman Catt of Iowa, who had established the Women's Peace Party, created the Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, which gathered five million members and became a force in lobbying for the Kellogg-Briand Pact. Twelve million women planned 48 state conferences to pressure the Senate to ratify the treaty. Women from many countries organized. Jane Addams of Chicago, renowned in the U.S. as a prominent reformer and advocate for women's and children's issues, was active in women's international peace efforts uniting women at a conference in The Hague, Netherlands, in the wake of World War I. She became the first international president of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, which was a strong supporter of the Kellogg-Briand Pact in the U.S. and Europe. Addams led a delegation delivering 30,000 signatures to the White House and also sent it to Briand in Paris.

These groups and individuals and many more saw in the Kellogg-Briand Pact a worldwide organizational effort to control aggression between nations in a way other than militarily in the hope of having nations work together instead of against each other. The Kellogg-Briand Pact has never been revoked by either the U.S. or the UN despite the UN's increasing role in fighting wars. As to outlawing war, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was more direct and stronger than the United Nations Charter, which came into being in 1945 after World War II, and its predecessor, the League of Nations. This is because it outlawed *all* war—not just aggressive war, which could be rationalized in all kinds of imaginable ways. There are no

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# Proclaim and Celebrate the Law against War!

by Steve McKeown

**Proclamation for a holiday:** On Aug 21 at 3:30 p.m., St Paul City Council member David Thune, who represents the district that the Frank Kellogg house is in, will be introducing a Proclamation recognizing the 85th anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact outlawing war. This pact was engineered by then U.S. Secretary of State Frank Kellogg, the only Minnesotan to have won the Nobel Peace Prize, an award for his efforts in making this international and U.S. law. The law is still in effect today and remains open to any country that wishes to sign on.

Although the Proclamation is expected to pass in the City Council, it is desirable to have the peace community's presence for support when the vote comes up at City Hall, 15 West Kellogg Blvd in downtown St. Paul,

City Council Chambers, third floor. A Press Conference will follow.

Additionally, people are encouraged to sign a national online petition to establish an August 27 holiday every year by googling "Create a Peace Pact Holiday."

**Celebration:** On August 27, during a celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, the Proclamation will be presented to the current residents of Frank B. Kellogg House, which is a designated National Historic Landmark and is located at 633 Fairmount Ave in the Crocus Hill neighborhood of St. Paul. Signed petitions calling to establish a national holiday to be observed on August 27 each year will be given to staff members from the offices of Minnesota Congresspersons Keith Ellison and Betty McCollum. A social gathering begins at 6:30 p.m., and the program starts at 7:00 p.m., which will include speakers, music and poetry. Light refreshments will be served, and this event is free of charge. WAMM members are invited—however, there are limited spaces. Reservations need to be made by contacting Steve at 612-869-2040 or [vfpchapter27@gmail.com](mailto:vfpchapter27@gmail.com).

*Photo: National Historic Register*

*The house built for Frank B. Kellogg, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1929, still stands on Fairmount Avenue in St. Paul.*



## End to War, *continued from page 2*

loopholes in the Kellogg-Briand Pact. While it does not rule out self-defense, it does not claim self-defense as a justification for going to war. That's because countries will always claim self-defense as a way to justify going to war.\* If there is a weakness in it, it is that the arms merchants undermined it before the ink was dry, something that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was quick to point out.

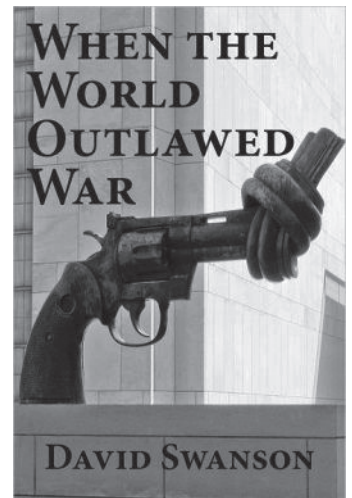
Aside from being vulnerable to the predatory plans of arms merchants, one criticism leveled against the Kellogg-Briand Pact is that there are no means of enforcement. Its effectiveness has always been a matter of signatories choosing to honor it. Even though the vast majority of people are unaware of the pact today, many of those in powerful positions must have some idea of its implications. This



*Photo: Library and Archives of Canada*  
*Signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact,  
Paris, August 27, 1928*

is because the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which calls war, itself, a "crime against the peace," later served as the legal basis for prosecuting the Nazis at Nuremberg. Leaders don't want to be in the position of being prosecuted for

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## When the World Outlawed War

Book by David Swanson (David Swanson, 2011, Charlottesville, Virginia) about how peace once became the law of the land, through the Kellogg-Briand Pact. In the era of the endless war, provides encouragement, models giving peace a chance. Available through MayDay Books, Minneapolis or in Kindle, Epub, PDF, iPad/iPhone, Audio (mp3) read by the author. Multiple copies also available. Free books for nonprofit educational groups. See: <http://davidswanson.org/outlawry>

## Ain't Gonna Study War No More

Abolition of war is no longer an ethical question to be pondered solely by learned philosophers and ecclesiastics, but a hard-core one for the decision of the masses whose survival is at issue. Many will tell you with mockery and ridicule that the abolition of war can only be a dream . . . that is the vague imagining of a visionary. But we must go on or we will go under! We must have new thoughts, new ideas, and new concepts. We must break out of the straitjacket of the past. We must have sufficient imaginations and courage to translate the universal wish for peace—which is rapidly becoming a universal necessity—into actuality.

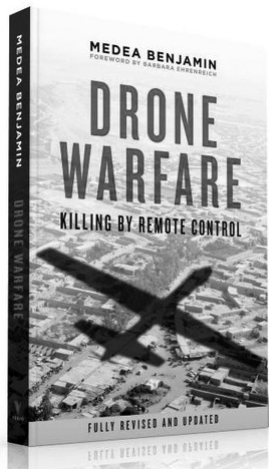
—General Douglas MacArthur  
quotation, National Journal,  
Veterans for Peace,  
Summer 1989, Issue 10,  
"Abolish War! It's the Only Option."

# PM Mad Investments, Sane Divestments

by Polly Mann

## WAMM Ground All Drones Committee

First Thursday of every month, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Cedar Center South (formerly the Nordic Center), 4200 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis, Suite 3. Call 612-827-5364 for more information.



## Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control

Book by Medea Benjamin of Code Pink. (OR Books, New York, London, 2012. Revised and updated.) Available at MayDay Books, Minneapolis or [www.codepinkstore.com](http://www.codepinkstore.com). How the U.S. government's use of drones to murder hundreds of innocent civilians in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen has increased the danger to our national security . . . reveals the vocal international citizen opposition that challenges the legality and morality of America's extrajudicial execution drones before they kill here at home.

—Ann Wright, U.S. Army colonel (ret.) and former deputy chief of mission for U.S. embassies in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and elsewhere.

[groundalldrone.blogspot.com](http://groundalldrone.blogspot.com)  
Blog of the WAMM drone committee. Resources, news, actions, etc.

On June 21, Christof Heyns, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions, at a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council organized by the ACLU urged a worldwide moratorium on lethal autonomous robotics—also called “drones.” (The ACLU has requested information about targeting policies from the Obama administration, but the request has been refused on the basis that the details are “classified.”)

Heyns has expressed deep concern that, once activated, drone systems can kill targets without human handlers: “Machines lack morality and mortality and should not have life-and-death power over humans.” In a strong reproach to the U.S., Heyns is further reported to have said: “It is difficult to see how any killings carried out in 2012 can be justified as in response to [events] in 2001 . . . some states seem to want to invent new laws to justify new practices.” Additionally, Heyns has stated that the targeting of rescuers (“double-tap strikes”) is a war crime.

On August 2, the *BBC* reported that Secretary of State John Kerry, in Pakistan, said in a television interview that the U.S. has a timeline to end drone strikes “very, very soon.” The timeline was not disclosed. At the same time, Kerry reported that “‘the threat’ [one might ask ‘What threat to the U.S.?’] had been eliminated and *will continue* to be eliminated” [italics added]. Pakistan has called for international legal action to halt drone attacks. Approximately 4,000 people have been killed by drone strikes in Pakistan alone, since 2002.

The subject of drones was first addressed at the UN Human Rights Council convention in Geneva when a report was presented to the international body on May 30. In a dialogue at this time, two dozen nations expressed concern, but “the UK was the only nation to declare its opposition to the call for a moratorium or ban on fully autonomous weapons . . .” ([www.stopkillerdrones.org](http://www.stopkillerdrones.org)) Are the UK and the U.S. partners in crime? Based on the fact that the UK and the U.S. share intelligence, a legal case has been lodged in London over the UK’s alleged role in the deaths of British citizens and others as a consequence of U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan, according to the *Guardian*.

The leading military powers are moving so rapidly in the direction of drones that a preemptive ban is essential.

Drone technology has already moved closer

to a fully autonomous state with the next generation drone, the X-47B, which was developed for the U.S. Navy by Northrop Grumman. *Business Insider* reports that it differs from previous drones in that “the mission operator monitors the X-47B air vehicle operation, but does not ‘fly’ it via remote control as is the case for other unmanned systems currently in operation.” The X-47B is preprogrammed so that it can refuel, take off, follow a flight plan, and land without any human intervention. Its design includes two weapons bays that can hold up to 4,500 pounds of ordnance.

Yet there is resistance to these mechanized horrors. Women Against Military Madness has an active Ground All Drones Committee and recently sponsored a talk delivered by Medea Benjamin of Code Pink. An antidrone activist, Medea has participated in delegations to drone-plagued countries Pakistan and Yemen.

Along with resisting this lethal technology, we also need renewed resistance to nuclear weapons. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has announced that the five legally recognized nuclear states as defined by the nonproliferation treaty—China, France, Russia, the UK and the U.S.—are either deploying new nuclear weapons and delivery systems or planning to do so! Signatories of the nonproliferation treaty pledge to work towards nuclear disarmament. But at the beginning of this year these nations plus India, Pakistan, and Israel possessed about 4,400 *operational* nuclear weapons. Pakistan is expanding its main plutonium-production complex, while Israel has approximately 80 intact nuclear weapons [other estimates are 200 and up] and may also have produced nonstrategic nuclear weapons. Counting all nuclear warheads, there are now some 17,265 nuclear weapons in the world today.

*Global Research* reported on July 25 that, according to ArmsControl.org, the United States, in all, “possesses 5,113 nuclear warheads, including tactical, strategic, and non-deployed weapons.”

World military expenditures in 2012, SIPRI states, have been \$1,756 trillion, which amounts to \$249 for each person in the world.

But the shareholders of the corporations that benefit from military expenditures are obviously happy with their investments. The workers who make such weapons, without question,

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## Mad Investment, Sane Divestments,

*continued from page 4*

are happy that they have employment and can feed their families, the politicians whose coffers are enriched by campaign contributions from the weapons corporations are happy for their largesse, the military establishment which protects these corporate interests is grateful for its allotments, and soldiers who supply the male/female/power for the military are grateful for jobs which are in short supply. In the meantime, the planet is being polluted beyond the point of return and the income of the people is being distributed in ways that increase the division between the rich and the poor; 400 families possess half the wealth of the United States. U.S. citizens pay more for health care than those of all the European countries together, and the quality of that care is ranked far below. Hunger is rife; fifty million Americans are known to be hungry every day. Homelessness has increased 60 percent during the last year. College students are facing huge debts.

So, while we are on the subject of unhappy investment, how about something to be hopeful about—the happier news on divestment?

But first, some background: The Bedouins living in Israel have been living in the Naqab area of Israel for centuries. They are indigenous to the area just as the Native Americans are indigenous to the United States. They occupy tens of thousands of acres of land in the Naqab, and the Israeli government seeks to confiscate this land to expand Jewish-only settlements. This is the concern of U.S. citizens because Israel is the top recipient of U.S. foreign aid—it has been allotted more than \$30 billion over 10 years, and the U.S. has partnered with Israel on military training, intelligence gathering, provided weapons delivery for some time, and allowed settlements on Palestinian land to continue while talking about a peace process, which is disingenuous, to say the least.

The confiscation of land in the Naqab is what is called the “Prawer Plan,” which has been introduced into the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. The Boycott Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC) of Palestine is calling upon the Inter-Parliamentary Union to freeze the Knesset’s membership until it repeals all racist laws—laws that are inconsistent with international law and the principles and objectives of the United Nations.

In 2005, the BDS Campaign was initiated against corporations and other entities doing business in Israel to either 1) boycott, 2) sell

their Israeli investments, or 3) apply sanctions against that country until it complies with international law and grants Palestinians their civil rights. As with so many other attempts at forcing a recalcitrant nation to “do the right thing” it is taking some time for the desired result to be achieved. But hooray! hooray! Even Thomas Friedman, ever the advocate for Israel, admitted in his *New York Times* column that the BDS movement “is creating a powerful surge of international opinion, particularly in Europe and on college campuses.”

Also, *Yedioth Ahronoth’s* Nahum Barnea, the most influential print journalist in Israel, wrote that the Magen David Adom ambulance service, the national branch of the Red Cross, is under pressure from the U.S., British, French, Dutch, and Norwegian branches to stay out of the West Bank, where it handles the Jewish settlements. Recently Itamar Rabinovich, former president of Tel Aviv University and ambassador to the U.S. under Rabin, reportedly told *Forward Magazine* that the boycott movement has been “gathering volume,” especially since world-famous British physicist Stephen Hawking withdrew from an academic conference because it was to be held in Israel.

The influential Israeli newspaper *Ha’aretz* reported that a group of top Israeli businesspeople, led by high-tech patriarch Yossi Vardi, warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the status quo with the Palestinians had caused a global cooling toward the country economically. The Palestinian BDS National Committee reported on July 18 that the EU acknowledges an obligation not to recognize Israeli colonization and annexation of occupied Palestinian territory and to stop loans to “virtually all” major Israeli businesses and public bodies. It seems that the BDS Campaign is bearing fruit and that the fear of economic reprisals is pushing Israel closer to granting equality to the Palestinians.

*Polly Mann is a founder of Women Against Military Madness and continues to be active with the organization. She serves on the WAMM Newsletter Committee and writes a regular column.*

- **Nonviolent Palestinian Resistance**
- Current info, analysis, videos, online newsletter by Mazin Qumsiyeh, research and teaching professor at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities in occupied Palestine. He is Chairman of the board of the Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People and coordinator of the Popular Committee Against the Wall and Settlements in Beit Sahour, author of *Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human Rights and the Israeli/Palestinian Struggle* and *Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment*. See: popular-resistance.blogspot.com

- **Oppression is a Bad Investment**
- We are Palestinians, Jews, Christians, Muslims, students, professionals, parents, community members and allies working together to bring Palestine-centric education to Minnesota in order to promote justice and human rights. We believe: We, the people of Minnesota, have the moral obligation to make sound investments that will not aid the oppression of any one race, creed or people. Minnesota’s investment in Israel supports an apartheid system in both Israel and the Occupied Territories that causes thousands of civilian deaths, many of who are children, and which involves the widespread abuse of human rights. We say, Minnesota divest from Israel Bonds, Divest for Justice in Palestine!

—MN Break the Bonds Campaign

- Below: Poster from a 2014 Conference on Legal Policy and Robotics. UN special rapporteur Christof Heyns warns that “some states [nation-states] want to invent new laws to justify their practices.”



I've been detained at Guantánamo for 11 years and three months. I have never been charged with any crime. I have never received a trial.

I could have been home years ago — no one seriously thinks I am a threat — but still I am here. Years ago the military said I was a “guard” for Osama bin Laden, but this was nonsense, like something out of the American movies I used to watch. They don't even seem to believe it anymore. But they don't seem to care how long I sit here, either.

When I was at home in Yemen, in 2000, a childhood friend told me that in Afghanistan I could do better than the \$50 a month I earned in a factory, and support my family. I'd never really traveled, and knew nothing about Afghanistan, but I gave it a try.

I was wrong to trust him. There was no work. I wanted to leave, but had no money to fly home. After the American invasion in 2001, I fled to Pakistan like everyone else. The Pakistanis arrested me when I asked to see someone from the Yemeni Embassy. I was then sent to Kandahar, and put on the first plane to Gitmo...I don't want to die here... I just hope that because of the pain we are suffering, the eyes of the world will once again look to Guantánamo before it is too late.

— Samir Naji al Hasan Moqbel, who, with other prisoners, went on a hunger strike at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and was force fed in an excruciatingly painful process, New York Times Op Ed, April 14, 2013 (Obtained in an unclassified phone conversation through his lawyer.)

## WAMM THANKS

The Community of St. Martin for their generosity through a grant to continue our work of documenting WAMM's history and conducting outreach.

# Who Will Take the Prisoners?

Adapted from a proposal by sociologist and activist Don Irish

Certainly, you are well aware of the captives being held for years by our government in Guantánamo, Cuba, without having been charged with any crimes. A number have been engaged in a hunger strike, the only means they have left to protest their unwarranted continued imprisonment. Our nation is violating international laws and Geneva Convention principles in its actions. That brutality is terrorism. Our president has stated that he will “close out” that facility. He has not done so. These captives are confronting their deaths. What can we try to do?

Historically there have been groups of people who have rallied numerous times in order to “do the right thing.” Prison conditions, as bad as they are now, were worse when some people rallied for better conditions in our early colonies. The Underground Railroad in the South provided vital, needed housing and food for slaves escaping captivity. In 1917, after World War I, Quakers provided for sick and undernourished children in Germany. During and after World War II, Quakers aided refugees coming from Germany to the United States (for which they were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace). Latin Americans, fleeing from their dictators to cross the border into our U.S. and Canada, were aided by various groups and individuals.

Can we now challenge the failure of our government? We could help the men in Guantánamo renew their hope and end their fasting. Could a movement begin (it should have begun long ago) whereby each of these men could be “adopted” for a limited period with certain understandings, until they are able to enter a country of their own choosing, if it's not possible for them to enter immediately? These men are not terrorists. They have been kept in prison for more than a decade, lacking family contacts, with little legal recourse or adequate personal care. Isn't it likely that they would appreciate being released from their “dungeons”?

Some are physically handicapped, others may be mentally broken; some both. Some of the men most probably will need specialized health care for physical and psychological problems. The U.S. federal government should provide information and medical specialists should be called upon, paid for by the U.S. The United States should pay for all their care so that it is not to be a burden on voluntary “hosts.” The federal government has already been providing their food, health and other expenses all along

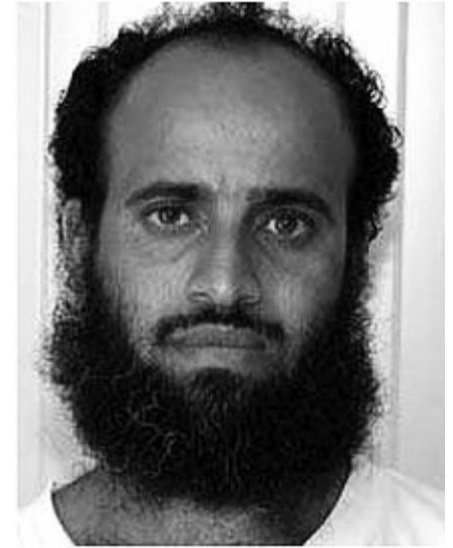


Photo: U.S. Army

Samir Naji al Hasan Moqbel.

“We are human. They ought not to treat us this way.”

at Guantánamo, so it would not be adding to the costs of keeping them. Nongovernmental groups should do what we can—churches, civic groups, etc.

There will be a need for evaluation of those who volunteer to accept each one of the men as a “new friend” in their lives. Granted, it is premature for an initial proposal like this to have all the answers.

A national movement such as this to terminate the captivity of these men who have been charged with no crimes will push President Obama to act on what he has said he “intends to do.” The most important thing is to save the lives of the captives. Obama has the power to devise or accept whatever solutions may aid in resolving the problem. Public news about solutions will hearten the men in prison and make it easier for the president. This is a humane concern, not a political one. This is not protecting terrorists, but releasing these men who have never been charged.

Who among us is willing and able to befriend and assist one of these victims who have suffered because of inhumane U.S. policy?

Don Irish is a Hamline University Professor Emeritus, Sociology, Anthropology, Latin American Studies. He has had extensive experience in nonviolent Latin American solidarity movements and academic studies, as well as in other social movements and studies.

*Announcing*  
**A VIDEO CONTEST EXAMINING  
TORTURE AND TORTURE ACCOUNTABILITY**

*Open to Amateurs and Professionals and any citizen of any nation.*

**The Tackling Torture Video Contest is accepting entries now.**

**Four prizes:**

- \$500 jury prize in the Serious category,
- \$500 jury prize in the Humorous/Satirical category
- two \$300 Audience Favorite prizes, one for Serious and one for Humorous/Satirical.

Videos can be from 30 seconds to 5 minutes in duration, but any length video has an equal chance of winning.

All videos must be in English or have full translations of all sound and text into English as part of the videos themselves.

**Deadline for entries is October 1, 2013.**

Twenty finalists will be announced October 8, 2013  
(Audience voting begins—see rules for audience voting)

Judging and audience voting completed October 21, 2013.

Announcement of winners and gala presentation will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA and is anticipated for the end of October (exact venue and date to be announced).

**Judges for the contest are:**

Sebastian Doggart, producer of the award winning biographical documentary, *American Faust: from Condi to Neo-Condi* and other films

Joseph Jolton, filmmaker, adjunct faculty, Media Arts, Minneapolis College of Art and Design

Professor Peter Kuznick, American University, co-writer with Oliver Stone of *The Untold History of the United States* documentary series for “Showtime”

Andy Worthington, filmmaker and investigative journalist, author of *The Guantanamo Files*

Professor Alfred McCoy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, author of *A Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation, from the Cold War to the War on Terror* and many other books

**Background**

Despite US and international law prohibiting the use of torture the US has used torture, often euphemistically called “enhanced interrogation techniques,” in its so-called “War on Terror.” Despite the law, despite documented proof that such efforts produce inadmissible evidence, false information and false confessions, and despite the blowback of such efforts, the U.S. continues to shield the lawbreakers—both those who committed and those who authorized torture--by “looking forward, not backward,” and there is evidence that such techniques continue to be used and falsely justified.

Through TV shows like “24” and Hollywood films like the commercially successful “Zero Dark Thirty” and the new documentary “Manhunt,” the U.S.’s use of torture is presented as viable, and even necessary to our country’s security. Unfortunately, a majority of the under-informed and misinformed public now thinks that torture is necessary and useful.

Tackling Torture at the Top, through this contest, hopes to produce entertaining and informative videos that contradict this harmful and inhumane view, educate the public, raise questions about the direction of our foreign policy and our use of the military, and by so doing, give the public the awareness and courage to rein in our country’s out of control security apparatus.

For full contest rules and judging criteria please go to: <http://tacklingtorturevideocontest.webs.com/> and see Contest Rules.



**The contest is initiated and conducted by Tackling Torture at the Top,  
a committee of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM).**

## WAMM THANKS

Sarah Martin in memory of  
Leslie Reindl

Charles and LaVon Fisher  
in memory of  
Dr. Sylvester Sanfilippo

Lucia Wilkes Smith in  
memory of Bon Grussing

Patty Guerrero in memory  
of Leslie Reindl

Sarah Martin in memory of  
Gwen Dahlquist

Pamela Marie, Leah and Eric  
Hedman, Karen and Tom  
Percich, and Mary and  
Dan Weir for Mary Percich  
in honor of Mothers' Day

Marie Goblirsch in honor of  
Bob Heberle

Judy Miller in honor of  
Bob Heberle



## WAMM Newsletters: Why More, Why Now?

WAMM has recently expanded to a 12-page newsletter and is able to produce more newsletters, without increasing costs. WAMM members can choose to read the newsletter either in print or online. We remain solidly committed to providing both options.

If you are a current member of Women Against Military Madness and are receiving a print copy in the mail, you will continue to do so unless you request not to. New members will receive a print copy, or can opt out of doing so. Individual articles, a pdf of the entire newsletter, as well as archives of newsletters, can be found online at:

[www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org](http://www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org)

We continue to produce the newsletter in print and mail it for several reasons:

We want our newsletters to be accessible to those who may not have any, or frequent, access to computers, or just prefer to read paper copies.

We contribute to union labor and fair employment, consistent with our values

and mission. By printing and mailing our newsletter, we help provide jobs for U.S. Post Office union workers and a local, union print shop. We have begun employing Do-Good Biz as our mailhouse, a small Minneapolis business that specializes in mailing for nonprofit organizations.

We contribute to renewable forests. Through the use of Forest Stewardship Council-Certified paper, we also help sustainable forest growers preserve land by growing renewable biomass, keeping the land from development. The paper we use contains recycled fiber and the company that produces it holds a high production standard in the industry from beginning to end of energy conservation.

Electronic versus paper is not an either-or proposition—they are both needed, as Joan Johnson, who serves on the Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, newsletter committee, explains in the following article. She explores the “green factor” and other issues, as well as, her personal preference. —*Editor*

## Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Paper versus Electronic Newsletters

by Joan Johnson

There has been a lot of discussion lately in peace and justice communities about confining communications to the exclusive use of electronics as a way to save the environment, specifically in regard to newsletter output.

From a personal point of view, after working my computer-bound clinic job, I want an easy chair, cup of tea and my Veterans for Peace, Women Against Military Madness or other important newsletters in hand. The last thing I want to do is stare at another bright eye-straining screen to catch up on the news that really matters to me. After reading my paper copies of newsletters, I can easily share them with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, highlight important articles, and write notes in the margins. By mailing them to others—and having them mailed to me—I am supporting the ever-diminishing U.S. Postal Service's business and postal workers' unions, now under attack by lawmakers.

I do not deny that computers and computer-generated communication are a big part of my life, both personally and professionally. I also recognize that the peace and social justice groups with which I affiliate depend on electronic communications. But what I question is this new “environmental” mantra being repeated over and over which claims

that electronic newsletters are “more green” or “more sustainable” than paper newsletters. I believe that we are fooling ourselves with this way of thinking.

When we read the electronic version of a newsletter, the computer and screen are powered by electricity, which is in no way “green.” Tremendous amounts of energy are needed for cooling computers to keep them running. Our electronic newsletter information is stored in data banks. In “Power, Pollution and the Internet” (*New York Times*, 9/23/2012), James Glanz wrote, “Worldwide, the digital warehouses use about 30 billion watts of electricity, roughly equivalent to the output of 30 nuclear power plants, according to estimates industry experts compiled for the *Times*. Data centers in the United States account for one-quarter to one-third of that load, the estimates show.” That is a huge environmental price to pay for data storage.

The destruction of forests is often cited as a reason to make the switch to exclusively electronic news, but sustainable forests grow renewable biomass, and what are electronics doing to the environment? In Don Carli's

*continued on page 9*



## Forest,

*continued from page 8*

“Media Shift” presentation on *PBS* (March 31, 2010), he stated, In Don Carli’s “Media Shift” presentation on *PBS* (March 31, 2010), he stated, “Computers, cellular networks and data centers are connected to the destruction of over 600 square miles of U.S. forest.” He says that one of the biggest causes is mountaintop removal in coal mining—a major cause of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and the pollution of over 1,200 miles of headwater streams in the U.S. He found that the electricity flowing through our digital media devices and their servers is linked to mountaintop removal of coal from the Appalachian Mountains. And the resulting air pollution and acid rain from these coal-powered plants is extremely detrimental to the land, air, and water.

Speaking of clean water—our earth’s precious resource which is rapidly becoming more scarce, and over which wars are being waged—it is important to recognize that the production of one computer chip uses hideous amounts of water. In his book, *The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water*, Charles Fishman explains how two million gallons of clean water are used in one day at just one computer chip plant (IBM in Burlington, Vermont), and reminds us that there are dozens of chip-manufacturing plants around the world. Computers are comprised of many toxic substances as well, and *National Geographic* (May 18, 2013) reports that “according to the U.N., about 20 to 50 million tons of electronic components are discarded each year, and laptops are becoming an increasing part of this refuse mixture.”

The Environmental Protection Agency reported that “Americans recycled nearly 66 percent of the paper they used in 2011. Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions, conserves natural resources, and saves landfill space. According to the American Forest and Paper Association, nearly 80 percent of America’s paper mills are designed to use paper collected in recycling programs, and they depend on paper recycling to supply the raw materials they need to make new paper.”

While I recognize the importance of using paper, a renewable resource, I am also aware of the energy use, environmental degradation, and pollution caused by its production. In researching this topic, I have undergone a massive self-evaluation on both computer/data-base usage and paper usage, and am finding ways to “curb my diet” in these realms. I believe that we each need to do our part



*Photo: Upper Midwest Regional Earth Sciences Application Center*

to limit consumption wherever possible and always be in a “recycling/re-use” mode with both modalities of communication. But I still believe that paper newsletters are an extremely important way to get our peace message out to each other and to the community at large. When examining all aspects of the “paper vs. electronic newsletter” argument in its entirety (from start to finish), contrary to popular opinion, I do not subscribe to the mantra of electronic being “more green.” In our paper newsletters, as well as in our daily lives, can we make it a goal to use recycled paper and/or (preferably) Forest Stewardship Council Certified paper. (I understand that WAMM has already made this commitment.)

It’s also important to realize that the military is the world’s worst polluter, and I think that all of the paper newsletters of every peace and social justice community of the entire world probably wouldn’t account for running a Trident submarine or an aircraft carrier for a couple of hours. If we can effectively and efficiently spread more of our message against military domination and destruction on more coffee tables, then I am for it.

*Joan Johnson is an associate member of and Newsletter Committee member/writer for Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, and a longtime member of Women Against Military Madness.*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

- Herbs from Basil to
- Real French Tarragon
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# August 2013 WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other group's events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) i.e., charitable purposes.

## Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

### Vigil to End War:

Every Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul. FFI: Call 612-522-1861 or WAMM 612-827-5364.

### Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine:

Every Friday, 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at Summit and Snelling Avenues, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

**Peace Vigil:** Every Tuesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the Eastside of the Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis. Sponsored by: Prospect Hill Neighbors for Peace. FFI: 612-379-7398

**Grandmothers for Peace Vigils** 50th St. and Halifax (1 block w. of France) 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. FFI: Marian Wright, 612-927-7607

*For information on additional peace vigils in Minnesota and Wisconsin, call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.*

## Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

**Board Meeting:** Third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

**The WAMM Book Club.** Third Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m., AFRO Deli: 1939 S. 5th St. Minneapolis (Riverside and 20th Avenue). Meet in the rear left room, behind the Deli. FFI: Suzan Koch: suzykoch@comcast.net

**End War Committee:** Acting Against War and the Threats of War. First Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. FFI: Call Marie 612-827-5364

**Ground All Drones.** First Thursdays of every month, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., at Cedar Center, 4200 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. FFI: 612-827-5364

**Middle East Committee:** Second Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364

**Media Committee:** FFI: Email the committee, wammmedia@gmail.com.

**WAMM Occupy:** FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

### St. Joan of Arc/WAMM

**Peacemakers:** Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Barbara, 612-722-4444

**Tackling Torture at the Top (T3):** Second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at 4200 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis.

## Ongoing Events

**Committee to Stop FBI Repression.** Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. All who stand up and act for justice and solidarity are welcome. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

**People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast:** Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justviewpoint.org or call 763-784-5177

**Grandmothers for Peace:** First Wednesday 12:45 p.m. at Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Program around justice issue that helps us to understand our role in changing unjust systems. FFI: 952-929-1566

**Tea Time Conversational Salons:** Most Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Mad Hatter's Teahouse, 943 West Seventh St., St. Paul. Salons are open to all. Suggested donations \$3-\$5 include tea, treats. FFI: 651-227-2511 or 651-227-3228.

**Third Thursday Global Issues Forum:** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, Groveland at Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis. FFI: globalsolutionsmn.org

**Middle East Peace Now:** Usually 2nd or 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, 10:00 a.m. Program. Location may vary. FFI: www.mepn.org

**Dignity, Not Detention Vigil:** Every first Sunday, 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. at 425 Grove Street (Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center). Vigil for civil immigrant detainees in jail at request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Sponsored by: Interfaith Coalition for Immigration, Advocates for Human Rights and others. FFI: Email interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com

## Special Events

**Proclamation Honoring the 85th Anniversary of the Signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact,** Wednesday, August 21, 3:30 p.m., City Hall, 15 West Kellogg Blvd., downtown St. Paul, City Council Chambers, Third Floor. FFI: Steve at 612-869-2040 or vfchapter27@gmail.com.

**Anniversary Celebration of Kellogg-Briand Pact:** August 27, Frank B. Kellogg House, 633 Fairmount Ave., St. Paul. WAMM members invited, but limited space. Reservations: Steve at 612-869-2040 or vfchapter27@gmail.com.

**WAMM Silent Auction:** Sunday, September 22, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. (bidding closes at 7:00 p.m.) St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Avenue S., Minneapolis. Suggested donation \$10-\$30 (No one turned away.) Complimentary buffet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Reserve a table for eight in advance, \$25 per person. See back of newsletter. FFI: WAMM 612-827-5364.

**Midwest Action Against Drones, Chicago:** Saturday, September 28, 3:00 p.m., Rally, Millennium Park, march to Boeing Headquarters! September 29, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., conference: speakers, workshops. End Drone Warfare Abroad and Spying at Home! No Killer Drone for Boeing! No New Wars on Iran and Syria! Money for Jobs, Healthcare, and Education-Not for War! Vans are being organized to go to Chicago from the Twin Cities. FFI: WAMM at 612-827-5364 or info@antiwarcommittee.org.

**Protest Twelve Years of U.S. War in Afghanistan:** Saturday, October 5. Sponsored by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition. More info: TBA

**¡Celebremos la Resistencia! Converge on Fort Benning, Georgia:** November 22-24, 2013. Join thousands of teachers, farmers, students, unionists, veterans, queer folk, environmentalists, migrants - as we converge at the gates of the School of the Americas (SOA; also known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, WHINSEC), where we continue to reaffirm life and our creativity in the face of Empire.

*Additional upcoming events are listed at [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org), or you may call the WAMM office for more information: 612-827-5364. Other peace and justice events can be found on [Minnesota Alliance for Peacemakers](http://MinnesotaAllianceforPeacemakers.org) at [www.mapm.org](http://www.mapm.org).*

## WAMM Membership

- \$15–39 Low Income/Student membership  
 \$40–59 Annual membership  
 \$60–199 Household membership  
 \$200–349 Sustainer (amount above membership)  
 \$350+ Major Donor (amount above membership)
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Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Make checks payable to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

## Pledge for Peace

(WAMM will send a coupon book)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly

I want to volunteer for WAMM

## WAMM Committees

### Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- Counter Recruitment
- End War Committee: Acting Against War and the Threats of War
- Immigration
- Media
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers
- Ground All Drones
- Tackling Torture at the Top
- WAMM Occupy

### Administrative and Other Committees:

- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- New Member
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
- Silent Auction

### WAMM Board

- Meredith Aby
- Marie Braun, Treasurer
- Terry Burke
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- Sue Ann Martinson
- JoAnn Maus
- Brigid McDonald
- BethAnne Nelson
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Lucia Wilkes Smith Secretary
- Sharon Rice Vaughan Co-Chair
- Carol Walker Co-Chair

## End to War,

*continued from page 3*

waging war. That's one reason we now have undeclared wars which are called "conflicts," "police actions," "humanitarian interventions," "enforcing sanctions," and "operations" such as Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm, instead of wars. In addition, the public is not told about some wars at all, as they are conducted covertly.

Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, has been active in acquiring signatures calling for a national holiday to be observed each August 27 on the anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact in the hopes that this can begin to change our ideas about war. By reviving the history of the life and legacy of the man whom one of St. Paul's most well-traveled streets was named after, we want to get people to think about the reason he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace and thus open up the very real possibility of further discussion about how this law came into being, why it did, and why it is important today.

We cannot match, on a case by case basis, all the scenarios that the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.—all its lobbyists—and all the war planners in the world conjure up. As peace advocates, our strength lies in maintaining the belief that it is possible to abolish war once and for all. We may find that outlawing war

is in our deeper human nature more than any imagined determination that war is inevitable.

\*When the U.S. Senate ratified the treaty, it did add that it must not infringe on the U.S.'s right to defend itself. The U.S. Senate also added, on ratifying it, that it was not obliged to take action against those who violated the treaty.

*Steve McKeown, a founding member of Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, is a longtime Twin Cities peace activist and, in addition to other antiwar work, has been working for the proclamation and national holiday to honor the anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact.*

**Correction:** John Pilger, *The Guardian*, as quoted in the July 2013 WAMM newsletter, wrongly identified the capacity of DU shells fired from A-10 Warhog planes during the Iraq War. According to WAMM's weapons expert, Tom Bottolene: "4,500 grams are equal to about 10 pounds. and the shell used by the A-10 Warhog is a 30mm shell that weighs only 1.5 pounds. It would be impossible to squeeze 10 pounds of DU into it. The 30 mm shell used by the A-10 Warhog contains approximately 230 grams of DU (one-half pound). Incidentally, the 120mm shell used by tanks contains approximately 10 lbs of DU."



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**MINNEAPOLIS**  
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**(SUGGESTED DONATION, NO ONE TURNED AWAY)**  
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